

Message Text

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15/70

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-05 ERDA-05 AF-06

ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

OES-03 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /115 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2886

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION GENEVA

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5003

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING REFERENCE LINE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM UNGA NZ

SUBJ: SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE/ CALL BY NEW ZEALAND

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

REF: A) USUN 4946, B) WELLINGTON 2956, C) STATE 215757

SUMMARY: NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TEMPLETON

AND DELEGATION OFFICER WILLIAMS CALLED ON AMBASSADOR

BENNET ON OCTOBER 13 TO DISCUSS THE SPNFZ. TEMPLETON

SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO BRING UP THE SPNFZ BECAUSE OF

"SUGGESTIONS" THAT THE US MIGHT OPPOSE THE INITIATIVE.

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EMPHASIZING THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO

MISSIONS, HE SAID THAT HE FOUND SUCH AN IDEA HARD TO BELIEVE. BENNETT REPLIED THAT NO SUCH DECISION HAD BEEN MADE TO HIS KNOWLEDGE. TEMPLETON AND WILLIAMS SAID PM ROWLINGS PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE SPNFZ WERE MADE FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION ON THE EVE OF ELECTIONS AND THAT HIS WORDS HAD NOT BEEN CAREFULLY CHOSEN. WE REITERATED SOME OF OUR RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE SPNFZ PROPOSAL. TEMPLETON ASKED TO BE INFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THE US DECISION ON THE PROPOSAL. USUN RECOMMENDS A CONTINUING LOW PROFILE ON THE ISSUE AND CAREFUL WEIGHING OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF A VOTE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

1. ON OCTOBER 13TH NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TEMPLETON AND NEW ZEALAND DELEGATION OFFICER WILLIAMS (DISARMAMENT SPECIALIST HERE FROM WELLINGTON FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY) CALLED ON AMBASSADOR BENNETT TO DISCUSS THE SPNFZ. TEMPLETON SAID HE HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO TALK TO ALL DELEGATIONS ABOUT THE SUBJECT. IN ADDITION HE SAID, HE HAD SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO BRING UP THE MATTER WITH US. FIRST, BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES IS SO INFLUENTIAL AND, SECOND, BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN "SUGGESTIONS" THAT THE US MIGHT VOTE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION. BENNETT REPLIED THAT HE KNEW OF NO SUCH DECISION. USUN MISSION OFFICER ADDED THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AS YET CONCERNING HOW THE US WOULD VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION.

2. TEMPLETON REMINDED US THAT THE US AND NEW ZEALAND HAVE WORKED CLOSELY ON MANY IMPORTANT POLITICAL ISSUES AT THE UN, INCLUDING THE KOREAN ITEM THIS YEAR, AND SAID THAT HE WOULD FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT WE WOULD VOTE AGAINST THE SPNFZ INITIATIVE. TEMPLETON AND WILLIAMS DESCRIBED THE LOW PROFILE MAINTAINED BY THE US ON THE "MUCH MORE DIFFICULT" INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE RESOLUTION AT THE 29TH UNGA.

3. HE DREW OUR ATTENTION TO THE GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT BY FIJI DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GANILAU (REF A) AND SPOKE APPROVINGLY OF THE STATEMENT PARTICULARLY AS IT ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT ON THE HIGH SEAS. HE DESCRIBED THE SECTION OF THE STATEMENT DEALING WITH THE SPNFZ AS "VERY GOOD."
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4. TEMPLETON INFORMED US OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE RESOLUTION AND AUSTRALIA'S SUPPORT, WITHOUT CO-SPONSORSHIP, AND SAID THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE. WILLIAMS REPORTED A POSITIVE REACTION FROM BOTH THE USSR AND THE CHINESE ON THE SPNFZ RESOLUTION AND WONDERED IF THE UNITED STATES MIGHT NOT BE ISOLATED IF IT DID NOT REACT FAVORABLY TO THE RESOLUTION. WE POINTED OUT THAT US HAS

TRADITIONALLY BEEN MUCH MORE ACTIVE IN THE AREA AND HAS US TERRITORY THERE.

5. USUN MISSION OFFICER REITERATED SOME OF OUR RESERVATIONS (SECURITY CONSIDERATION, FREE PASSAGE ON THE HIGH SEAS) CONCERNING THE SPNFZ PROPOSAL AND CITED PRIME MINISTER ROWLING'S AUGUST 20TH RADIO INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE DISCUSSED KEEPING THE PROPOSED ZONE CLEAR OF NUCLEAR ARMED VESSELS(REF B). WILLIAMS RESPONDED THAT SUCH STATEMENTS MADE ON THE EVE OF AN ELECTION SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE AND CONTINUED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD NOT CHOSEN HIS WORDS AS CAREFULLY AS HE SHOULD HAVE. SHE LATER CHARACTERIZED ROWLING'S STATEMENT AS A "SLIP OF THE TONGUE." BOTH SHE AND TEMPLETON REFERRED REPEATEDLY TO THE DOMESTIC NEW ZEALAND CONSIDERATIONS WHICH ENGENDERED ROWLING'S PUBLIC REMARKS.

6. TEMPLETON EMPHASIZED THAT NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ABOUT HOW TO PROCEED ONCE THE SPNFZ RESOLUTION IS APPROVED AND THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE WISHES OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE AREA AS WELL AS THOSE OF THE NUCLEAR POWERS BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY BY USUN MISSION OFFICER ABOUT A POSSIBLE "TWO-TIER" APPROACH, TEMPLETON SAID THAT SOMETHING ALONG THOSE LINES WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION. HE DREW OUR ATTENTION, HOWEVER, AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE TENTATIVENESS OF NEW ZEALAND'S THINKING ABOUT HOW TO PROCEED, TO THE FACT THAT THE NEW ZEALAND-FIJI RESOLUTION DOES NOT EVEN CALL FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEM AT THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

7. TEMPLETON CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP ON OTHER ITEMS WOULD CONTINUE AND THE HOPE THAT WE COULD HAVE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THE SPNFZ. HE ASKED TO BE INFORMED ABOUT THE US POSITION ON THE SPNFZ AS SOON
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AS POSSIBLE.

8. IN A LATER CONVERSATION, WILLIAMS SAID THAT THE GONZ IS CONCERNED BECAUSE IN SPITE OF ASSURANCES TO WASHINGTON THAT US RESERVATION ABOUT THE SPNFZ ARE BEING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, THE GONZ CONTINUES TO GET A "HARD LINE" REACTION FROM WASHINGTON. WILLIAMS CONTINUED THAT THE IMPRESSION THE GONZ HAS IS THAT WASHINGTON IS VERY MUCH OPPOSED TO THE RESOLUTION AND WILL VOTE AGAINST IT.

9. COMMENT: THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE GONZ ATTACHED TO THE SPNFZ. THE GONZ HAS CLEARLY INVESTED ITS PRESTIGE IN THE SPNFZ INITIATIVE AND WILL REACT UNFAVORABLY TO US OPPOSITION JUST BEFORE NZ ELECTIONS. TEMPLETON IMPLIED THAT A "LOW" US PROFILE WOULD BE UNDER-

STOOD WHEREAS ACTIVE OPPOSITION TO THE SPNFZ PROPOSAL WOULD NOT. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE USG CONTINUE THE LOW PROFILE WHICH HAS CHARAACTERIZED OUR APPROACH TO THE SPNFZ PROPOSAL HERE AT THE UN AND THAT WE WEIGH WITH GREAT CARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR GONZ SUPPORT FOR US INITIATIVES OF A NEGATIVE VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION.

10. IT APPEARS ON THE BASIS OF ROWLING'S OCTOBER 3 SPEECH, TEMPLETON'S FAVORABLE COMMENTS ON GANILAU'S SPEECH AND TEMPLETON'S OWN STATEMENTS DURING HIS CALL ON BENNETT THAT THE GONZ HAS INDEED TRIED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO US RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE SPNFZ. WHILE IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE THE GONZ BACK-PEDALLING NOW ON THE RESOLUTION PERHAPS ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO GET THE GONZ TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION SO THAT IT ENDORSES THE STUDY OF THE IDEA RATHER THAN APPROVING THE CONCEPT (REF C)-- WITH AN EXPLICIT PROMISE OF US SUPPORT AS THE CARROT-- MIGHT WORK. A JOINT UK, US DEMARCHE MIGHT ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

11. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER SUCH A COURSE. WE WOULD PREFER TO AMEND THE SPNFZ RESOLUTION SO THAT THE US CAN SUPPORT IT IF POSSIBLE OR ABSTAIN. IF THE DECISION IS MADE TO VOTE AGAINST THE NEW ZEALAND-FIJI RESOLUTION, WE WOULD RECOMMEND AGAINST ACTIVE OPPOSITION (PARTICULARLY SINCE IT IS NOT LIKELY TO HAVE MUCH EFFECT).
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